

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.     A method comprising:  
2           receiving a first basic input/output system image to replace an existing second basic  
3     input/output system image stored in a firmware memory;  
4           modifying the first basic input/output system image by replacing a portion of the first  
5     basic input/output system image with a portion of the second basic input/output system image;  
6     and  
7           writing the modified first basic input/output system to the firmware memory to replace  
8     the second basic input/output system image.
- 9           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of the second basic input/output  
10    system image comprises configuration data for a computer system.
- 11          3.     The method of claim 2, wherein the configuration data comprises boot options for  
12    a computer system.
- 13          4.     The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of the second basic input/output  
14    system image corresponds to a portion of the second basic input/output system image locked  
15    from a write operation.
- 16          5.     The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving comprises:  
17           storing the first basic input/output system image in a system memory of a computer  
18    system.
- 19          6.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
20           comparing the portion of the first basic input/output system image with the portion of the  
21    second basic input/output system image to check for compatibility between the first and second  
22    basic input/output system images.

1           7.     The method of claim 6, wherein the comparing comprises:  
2           comparing the size of the portion of the first basic input/output system image with the  
3           size of the portion of the second basic input/output system image.

1           8.     The method of claim 6, wherein the comparing comprises:  
2           comparing a location of the portion of the first basic input/output system image with a  
3           location of the portion of the second basic input/output system image.

1           9.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           using a FLASH memory for the firmware memory.

1           10.    A computer system comprising:  
2           a firmware memory storing an existing basic input/output system image; and  
3           a processor to:  
4                 modify a replacement basic input/output system image by replacing a portion of  
5           the replacement basic input/output system image with a portion of the existing basic input/output  
6           system image; and  
7                 write the modified replacement basic input/output system image to the firmware  
8           memory to replace the existing basic input/output system image.

1           11.    The computer system of claim 10, wherein the portion of the existing basic  
2           input/output system image comprises configuration data for the computer system.

1           12.    The computer system of claim 11, wherein the configuration data comprises boot  
2           options for the computer system.

1           13.    The computer system of claim 10, wherein the portion of the existing basic  
2           input/output system image corresponds to a region of the firmware memory locked from writes.

1 14. The computer system of claim 10, further comprising:  
2 a system memory,  
3 wherein the processor stores the replacement basic input/output system image in the  
4 system memory.

1 15. The computer system of claim 10, wherein the processor compares the portion of  
2 the existing basic input/output system image with the portion of the replacement basic  
3 input/output system image to check for compatibility between the existing and replacement basic  
4 input/output system images.

1 16. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the processor compares the size of the  
2 portion of the existing basic input/output system image with the size of the portion of the  
3 replacement basic input/output system image.  
4

1 17. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the processor compares a location of  
2 the portion of the existing basic input/output system image with a location of the portion of the  
3 replacement basic input/output system image.  
4

1 18. The computer system claim 10, wherein the firmware memory comprises a  
2 FLASH memory.

1 19. An article comprising a computer readable storage medium storing instructions to  
2 cause a processor to:  
3 modify a replacement basic input/output system image by replacing a portion of the  
4 replacement basic input/output system image with a portion of an existing basic input/output  
5 system image stored in a firmware memory; and  
6 write the modified replacement basic input/output system image to the firmware memory  
7 to replace the existing basic input/output system image.

1 20. The article of claim 19, wherein the portion of the existing basic input/output  
2 system image comprises configuration data for a computer system.

1           21.     The article of claim 20, wherein the configuration data comprises boot options for  
2     a computer system.

1           22.     The article of claim 19, wherein the portion of the existing basic input/output  
2     system image corresponds to a region of the firmware memory locked from writes.

1           23.     The article of claim 19, the storage medium storing instructions to cause the  
2     processor to store the replacement basic input/output system image in a system memory of a  
3     computer system.

1           24.     The article of claim 19, the storage medium storing instructions to cause the  
2     processor to compare the portion of the existing basic input/output system image with the portion  
3     of the replacement basic input/output system image to check for compatibility between the  
4     existing and replacement basic input/output system images.

1           25.     The article of claim 24, the storage medium storing instructions to cause the  
2     processor to compare the size of the portion of the existing basic input/output system image with  
3     the size of the portion of the replacement basic input/output system image.

1           26.     The article of claim 24, the storage medium storing instructions to cause the  
2     processor to compare a location of the portion of the existing basic input/output system image  
3     with a location of the portion of the replacement basic input/output system image.

1           27.     The article claim 19, wherein the firmware memory comprises a FLASH memory.